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In the Patent and Trademark Office

Inventor: Degabli

Application Serial No. 09/270,151

Filing Date: March 16, 1999

Art Unit and Examiner: 3724/Examiner Marina Rachuba

Invention: Combination Utility Knife

Paper No. 14

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Amendment and Response to Office Action

10/15/01 GROUP 3700

Assistant Commissioner for Patents

Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Examiner Rachuba:

This Amendment and Response is being filed in response to the Office Action (Paper no. 13), mailed on August 9, 2001. This Response is being filed by fax on Tuesday, October 2, 2001 and is transmitted to Examiner Rachuba at (703) 305-3579, accompanied by a Certificate of Transmission and a fax cover sheet. No fee is required.

Kindly amend the above-referenced application as follows:

In the Specification

Please replace paragraph 7 of the "Brief Description of the Preferred Embodiments" (on p. 7 of the Specification) with the following paragraph. The text as marked to show changes is set forth below:

With the flange 44 retained by the hook 26, the zero position of the measuring tape is very close to the cutting surface 50 of the blade 14. Moreover, because of the substantially parallel orientation of sides 30 and 28 with respect to the angled end of the housing from which the blade extends, the ruler portion 40 of the measuring tape 38 is held closely parallel to the surface to be cut 54, minimizing measuring inaccuracies resulting from the measuring tape 38 being held either at an angle to the surface to be cut, or farther away from the surface to be cut 52.

Same paragraph marked to show changes:

With the flange 44 retained by the hook 26, the zero position of the measuring tape is very close to the cutting surface 50 of the blade 14. Moreover, because of the substantially parallel orientation angle of sides 30 and 28 with respect to the angled end of the housing from which the blade extends ~~cutting surface 50 of the blade~~, the ruler portion 40 of the measuring tape 38 is held closely parallel to the surface to be cut 54, minimizing measuring